Breeds of Dairy Cattle

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Holstein History

- The Holstein cow originated in Europe
- The major historical development of this breed occurred in what is now the Netherlands
- Winthrop Chenery brought the first Holstein over so the sailors could have milk
  - He noticed her high production and started to bring over more
Holstein Characteristics

- Holsteins are large, stylish animals with color patterns of black and white or red and white.
- Average production for all Holsteins enrolled in official U.S. production-testing programs in 1987 was 17,408 pounds of milk, 632 pounds of butterfat and 550 pounds of protein per year.
Brown Swiss History

- Brown Swiss breed originated in the mountain pastures of the Swiss Alps
- The Brown Swiss breed in the United States was declared a dairy breed in 1906
Brown Swiss Characteristics

- light silver to dark brown with dark points
- 15,883 lbs of milk per lactation; 3.97% fat
- a mature female weighs 1400 lbs
- particularly strong feet and legs because of the mountains
- docile, people-friendly demeanor
Guernsey History

- The Isle of Guernsey, a tiny island in the English Channel off the coast of France, is the birthplace of the Guernsey cow.
- The Monks from France brought Frances best bloodlines and came up with the Guernsey.
- Introduction of the Guernsey to America occurred around September 1840, when Captain Belair of the Schooner Pilot brought three Alderney cows to the port of New York.
Guernsey’s Characteristics

- The Guernsey cow is known for producing high-butterfat and high-protein milk.
- Guernseys produce their high quality milk while consuming 20 to 30 percent less feed per pound of milk.
- The Guernsey is also an excellent grazer.
- Produces 14,667 pounds of milk, 659 pounds of butterfat and 510 pounds of protein.
The Jersey breed originated on the Island of Jersey, a small British island in the English Channel. The island of Jersey was very protective of this breed. Because of this, the breed stayed distinctive for many years.
Jersey Characteristics

- Jerseys are adapted to a wide range of climatic and geographical conditions
- Jerseys vary greatly in color, but the characteristic color is golden fawn, with or without white markings
- Smallest of the dairy breeds
- Long life (61.1 months vs 56.2 months)
- Its nutritive content is 28.46% greater than ordinary milk
Ayrshire History

- The Ayrshire breed originated in the County of Ayr in Scotland, prior to 1800.
- Prior to 1800 many of the cattle of Ayrshire were black, although by 1775 browns and mottled colors started to appear.
- Early breeders carefully crossed and selected the various strains of cattle.
Ayrshire Characteristics

- red and white
- medium-sized cattle and should weigh over 1200 pounds at maturity
- strong, rugged cattle that adapt to all management systems including group handling on dairy farms with free stalls and milking parlors
- 12,000 pounds of milk with a 3.9% Butterfat
- Calves are strong and easy to raise
Shorthorn History

- Shorthorn originated Tees River Valley in the northeastern part of England
- The Colling brothers, Charles and Robert, are often referred to as the founders of the Shorthorn breed of cattle
- first systematic breeding program
- They were brought to America in 1783
Shorthorn Characteristics

- color ranges from red to roan to white
- In the feedlot, these cattle attain 1,000 to 1,200 pound weights at an early age
- ease of calving
- docile
- healthy calves
Quiz Time!!!!!!!!!!
What is this breed?
What is this breed?
What is this breed?
What is this breed?
What is this breed?

provided by Hoard's Dairyman
What is this breed?
Answers

- 1. Holstein
- 2. Brown Swiss
- 3. Guernsey
- 4. Jersey
- 5. Ayrshire
- 6. Milking Shorthorn